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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/625,967	07/26/2000	Naoyuki Inoue	000929	8413
38834	7590	06/03/2005	EXAMINER	
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP			SORRELL, ERON J	
1250 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 700				2182
WASHINGTON, DC 20036			DATE MAILED: 06/03/2005	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09625967

EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER
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20050526

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents



FRITZ FLEMING
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2100

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 12/27/04 was filed after the mailing date of the Notice of Allowance on 9/30/04. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-16 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record, including the IDS submitted 12/27/04, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest an expansion device used for transmission of data between a computer and a readout device, comprising audio circuits, a first power input portion being supplied with source power for the expansion device from a power supply for the computer, a second power input portion being supplied with source power for the expansion device from a second power supply other than power supply for the computer, a DC/DC converter connected to a mounting portion and to audio circuits, wherein operations of the audio circuits and the readout device are enabled by supplying source power to the DC/DC converter from said second power input portion when the second power input

portion has a higher voltage level than the first power input portion and supplying source power to the DC/DC converter from the first power input portion when the first power input portion has a higher voltage level than the second power input portion.

4. The IDS submitted 12/27/04 included an International Search Report citing European Patent Application 0689127A (hereinafter "Kondo") as being particularly relevant to the claims when taken alone (i.e. an "X" reference). The Examiner has carefully reviewed to Kondo reference and has found that although Kondo teaches an expansion device used for transmission of data between a computer and a readout device comprising, audio circuits, a first power input portion, and a second power input portion, **Kondo is silent on the device also comprising a DC/DC converter and is silent on the conditions on which the power is supplied from either the first or second power supply** (emphasis added). Kondo also fails to teach the first power input portion being supplied with source power from the power supply of the computer.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eron J. Sorrell whose telephone number is 571 272-4160. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Gaffin can be reached on 571 272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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EJS
May 26, 2005

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FRITZ FLEMING
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2100